

STEEP ROCKY
DESERT SHRUB
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Edwards Plateau

Location _____

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as rough broken, limestone hills on steep slopes of 30 percent or greater. Elevations range from 2000 to 3000 feet.
2. SOILS:
 - a. This site consists of pockets of stony loam soil occurring between limestone fragments and boulders. Soil covers less than 20 percent of the steep and stony land. The soil has a good plant-soil-water-air relationship, but due to slope and large amount of rock surface, runoff is high. Sheet erosion may become severe if soil is unprotected by plant cover.
 - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
Ector stony loam
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax plant community consists of warm-season short grasses and mid grasses intermixed with occasional woody plants and forbs.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	80% <u>Woody</u>	15% <u>Forbs</u>	5%
Bush muhly	40	Skeletonleaf	Orange zexmenia
Black grama		goldeneye	Bushsunflower 3
Chino grama			
Sideoats grama	10	Kidneywood	Plains zinnia
Cane bluestem		Range ratany	Greenthread 2
		Daleas	
Green sprangletop		Mariola	2
Arizona cottontop	5	Soapweed	3
Plains bristlegrass		Sotol	2
Slim tridens	10		
Fall witchgrass	10		
Threeawns			
Halls panicum	5		

- b. As retrogression occurs, creosotebush, lechuguilla, ocotillo and tasajillo invade the site. Species such as fluffgrass, ear muhly, dogweed, coldenia, croton and paperflower replace many of the climax grasses. Total plant cover is greatly reduced and soil erosion is accelerated.
- c. Approximate total annual yield for this site in excellent condition ranges from 450 pounds per acre air dry herbage in unfavorable years to 575 pounds per acre in favorable years.
4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is inhabited by deer, dove, and quail.
5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/Yr.L.</u>	<u>AU/Sec/Yr.L.</u>
Excellent	75-100	46-71	9-14
Good	51-75	64-128	5-10
Fair	26-50	71-160	4-9
Poor	0-25	128-0	0-5

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Sideoats grama	Perennial threeawns	All annuals
Plains bristlegrass	Slim & rough tridens	Fluffgrass
Green sprangletop	Fall witchgrass	Ear muhly
Bush muhly	Halls panicum	Lechuguilla
Black grama	Hairy tridens	Cacti
Chino grama	Skeletonleaf	Groundsels
Cane bluestem	goldeneye	Dogweed
Arizona cottontop		Sacahuista
Bushsunflower		Sotol

b. Sheep

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Orange zexmenia	Mariola	Dogweed
Bushsunflower	Plains zinnia	Senecio
Greenthread		Desert baileya
Skeletonleaf goldeneye		Broom snakeweed
Daleas		Gray coldenia
Range ratany		
Kidneywood		
Sideoats grama		
Some annual forbs		

c. Goats

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Skeletonleaf goldeneye	Catclaw	Perennial threeawn
Kidneywood	Swampweed	Red grama
Daleas	Pricklypear	Fluffgrass
Mariola	Sotol	Croton
Range ratany	Slim & rough	Dogweed
Orange zexmenia	tridens	Desert baileya
Bushsunflower	Cane bluestem	Lechuguilla
Sideoats grama	Chino grama	Ocotillo
Plains bristlegrass	Black grama	
Green sprangletop	Hairy tridens	
Bush muhly		
Fall witchgrass		

1/ Definitions of terms and an explanation of interpretations is given on a separate page which is attached or submitted with each group of range site descriptions.

d. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Skeletonleaf goldeneye	Sideoats grama	Fluffgrass
Daleas	Plains bristlegrass	Perennial threeawn
Range ratany	Fall witchgrass	Paperflower
Kidneywood	Sotol	Dogweed
Bushsunflower	Mariola	Cacti
Orange zexmenia	Pricklypear	Coldenia
Greenthread		Croton
Lechuguilla		
Some annual forbs		

e. Javelina

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Lechuguilla	Perennial grasses	Most woody shrubs
Pricklypear	Perennial forbs	Annual grasses
Cacti fruits	Sotol	Annual forbs
Roots of perennial grasses and forbs		
Mast of most woody shrubs		

f. Dove and Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Croton	Sideoats grama	Threeawns
Plains bristlegrass	Tridens	Most gramas
Fall witchgrass	Bushsunflower	Fluffgrass
Halls panicum	Orange zexmenia	Bush muhly
Mariola	Greenthread	Lechuguilla
Kidneywood	Mast of most woody shrubs	Sotol
Annual forbs w/hard seeds		Creosotebush
Daleas		